

# The Baptist Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

Thursday, April 20, 1995

Published Since 1877

## MC students give break to needy Mexican children

By Chrystelle Thames

Long hours, scraping, painting, digging, sledge hammers, and primitive facilities. Sound like the perfect vacation? It was for some Mississippi College (MC) students.

While thousands of college students spent their spring break soaking up the fun at South Padre Island in Texas, 35 MC students traveled 17 hours to Matamoros, Mexico, to impact the lives of

children at Casa Hogar Children's Home, unaware of how their own lives would be touched as they sacrificially gave of themselves.

Stan Feener, minister of students at Morrison Heights Church, Clinton, and Rudy Cole, who works at the Mississippi Baptist Children's Village, organized the trip in the church's college department.

The 42-member group drank 30 gallons of water a day as they painted houses, trees (a Mexican custom), and fences. They broke up old sidewalks and poured new sidewalks, and dug a hole for a septic tank — all with hand tools.

Despite long hours, some men would resume digging from 10 p.m. until 1 a.m. to assure that the project would be completed.

MC student Trey Wooten, who drove the entire 17 hours to Matamoros, said Saul Camacho, director of Casa Hogar, told him his group accomplished an incredible amount of work — so much in their three-day visit that he would have to find something else for the next mission group to do.

This was Trey's second trip to Casa Hogar, and much to his surprise, several children remembered him by name.

Director Saul Camacho has a special place in his heart for the children's home, since he and his wife Maria were once residents.

Camacho is a medical doctor and operates a public clinic on campus in addition to caring for the children's medical needs.

Casa Hogar has been in existence 22 years and currently houses 98 children, according to board of trustees chairman Shelby Neese.



Mississippi College students on a mission trip to Matamoros, Mexico, take a break from their excavation work at the site of a septic system planned for a children's home near Matamoros. The 42-member group worked well into the night to ensure that the digging would be complete before they returned to Mississippi. (Special to **The Baptist Record**)

"There is a waiting list for admittance," said Rudy Cole.

"The thing that amazes me every trip is how happy the children are with so little," he said.

Casa Hogar continues to need assistance meeting its \$187,000 budget, said Cole.

"They are in an awkward position in that they are not far enough away to receive foreign mission funds, and they are not within the U.S., so they do not receive home mission funds," he said.

Since the children's home is totally dependent on voluntary donation, Neese solicits help

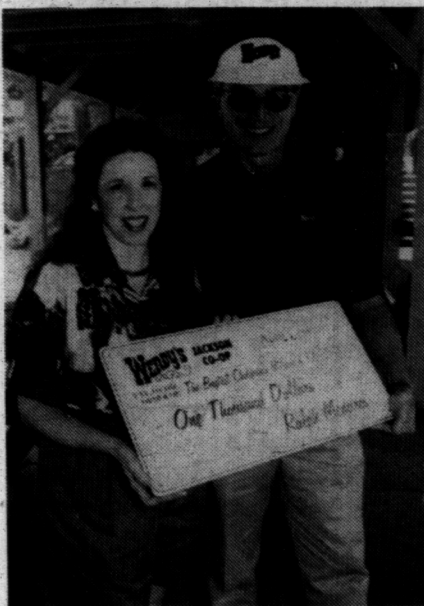
individually, church by church, Cole said.

According to Neese, Camacho involves the children at Casa Hogar in missions. They learn to minister and start new churches in a city of 850,000 people with only 14 churches.

These children are given every advantage possible to develop and expand their horizons. Last year, Casa Hogar had 17 graduates from colleges and trade schools who are now independent, productive citizens of Mexico.

Thames is director of public relations at Mississippi Baptist Children's Village in Jackson.

## Golf classic helps BCV



The Mississippi College Student Government Association (SGA) and Wendy's Restaurants hosted a golf tournament at Shady Oaks Country Club in Jackson to benefit the Mississippi Baptist Children's Village (BCV). Ralph Madeiros (right, in photo at left), director of area operations for Wendy's, presented a check for \$1,000 to Chrystelle Thames, PR director for the BCV. Winners of the tournament (below, left to right) were: Nichole Price, Monroe, La.; Ben Buchanan, Indianapolis; Scott Hollingsworth, Clinton; Michael Fancher, Red Bay, Ala.; Buddy Still, Brandon; and Mike Evans and Larry Stevens, both of Jackson. Donations for the tournament were made by Wendy's International.



## Work in progress

Even though his name means "God with us," Nigerian-born Emmanuel Anakwue's life didn't reflect that until he came face-to-face in federal prison with an ex-con turned Southern Baptist preacher. Now he believes in his name. "God has given me a vision," he said. Anakwue borrowed a passport from a friend and sneaked into the U.S. several years ago. The lure of drug trafficking soon overcame him, he said, and he "fell into temptation." The result was a 33-month sentence in the Texarkana federal penitentiary. It was there that his life was changed by that ex-con/preacher Don Dennis and two local Baptist volunteers. They led him through the MasterLife study series. "The Spirit spoke to me through (these men)," Anakwue said. More than 60 inmates have now been baptized; over 80 inmates have completed the MasterLife program. Anakwue plans to return to Nigeria upon his release and work with a Baptist church in Lagos. "It was the will of God for me to pass through all this. I am happier now, inside prison, than when I was home. Now I have Christ," he said.

## Just clowning around

People always accuse Ernie and Jean Liebig of clowning around in church, but they don't mind. After 42 years as pioneers in the gospel clowning field, they consider it a compliment. "Clowning opens doors. If I took 10 people out to hand out gospel tracts, people would shy away from them. But I can take the same people dressed as clowns, and people will flock around them," Ernie said. The Liebigs traveled 33,000 miles last year to spread the gospel through clowning. They have written a book on gospel clowning, published as a leadership manual by the Baptist Sunday School Board. The Liebigs went to Mexico City with a Texas Baptist Men disaster relief unit after the devastating 1985 earthquake, and found clowning there helped lighten the burden for earthquake victims. After a performance at a relief site, over 400 people lined up to talk about Jesus with Southern Baptist counselors. Since retiring, the Liebigs have hit the road full-time and helped start clown ministries in 27 churches. They have even been invited to teach a three-hour credit course in gospel clowning at Hannibal-LaGrange College in Missouri.

## Looking Back...

### 10 years ago

Former foreign missionary Jack Glaze, currently head of the Department of Religion and Philosophy at Mississippi College, is chosen by New Orleans Seminary trustees as the Chester L. Quarles professor of missions.

### 20 years ago

Mississippi native Arthur Blessitt, now a Miami-based Baptist evangelist, announces in New York City that he'll run for president of the United States in the Florida and New Hampshire primaries.

### 50 years ago

Norman W. Cox, pastor of First Church, Meridian, and president of the Mississippi Baptist Convention, sends in the first Centennial Crusade Offering check from Mississippi in the amount of \$5,000.



## EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

Guy Henderson

## Revival! Is it yet possible?

Is there a stirring in the mulberry trees? Can these dry bones live? Can there really be spiritual revival in our day? God's hand is not shortened nor is his ear heavy. He can still save and will hear the prayers of those who cry unto him.

"There's an urgent cry for the practical outpouring of the presence of God in our day," said Henry Blackaby, prayer and spiritual awakening director for the Home Mission Board. Reports of revival stirrings in Texas and Illinois are probably "the deepest touch of revival since the Asbury movement of God in the early '70s," Blackaby said.

A few weeks ago several students at Howard Payne University in Brownwood, Texas, stood to confess their sins and request prayer. Other students came, services were lengthened, and the wind of revival began to blow. Some of the students were invited to chapel service at Southwestern Seminary. Again, there was the confession of sins and the plea for spiritual awakening.

Two students from Howard Payne University were invited to

speak at student-led services on a Sunday night at Wheaton College, in Wheaton, Ill. After they spoke, there was no "exhortation or manipulation," said Tim Beougher, but "immediately students came to the microphone and confessed sins. The confession was deep. It was painful. God really did a work of breaking people."

The evening service did not end until 6 a.m. Monday. Students gathered the next evening — attendance increased from 700 to 1350 — and the service concluded at 2 a.m. The "beautiful thing was that when a person would confess sins, 20 to 50 students would gather around the person and pray for him. There was a real spirit of love and acceptance," said Beougher.

The following Thursday, 1,500 students held a praise and worship service. Professor Lyle Dorsett said, "It was glorious... it was a foretaste of what heaven is going to be like." That night 200 to 300 students committed themselves to full-time Christian service.

Wheaton students have gone to other schools such as Northwestern College in Minneapolis, Trinity

Evangelical Divinity School near Chicago, Gordon College and Eastern Nazarene College, both in Massachusetts.

Billy Graham's global telecast from Puerto Rico in 116 languages to more than 10 million people has impacted the world. National television networks in 117 countries carried Graham's Easter message to an estimated one billion people.

Many of our Mississippi churches are in spring revivals and already scattered reports are coming in. There is a growing concern for our society to be revived. Confession of sins and a brokenness have always been the hallmark of spiritual awakening. More than 100 ABC stations carried the Easter service of First Church, Jackson, where Frank Pollard is pastor. The resurrection message was heard from Miami to Yakima, and from Bangor, Maine, to Biloxi.

Can these dry bones live? The conditions set forth for revival have not been changed: "If my people, which are called by my name..." (2 Chron. 7:14).

## The Living Waters...

## Soil and Water Stewardship Week, April 30 thru May 7

Water is the lifeblood of the universe. From babbling brook to salty sea, it ties together mountains, hills, swamps, farms, and cities in a constant cycle of life and renewal. Water carries the nutrients and the pulse of life. Throughout the universe, where there is no water, there is no life.

Each of us meets this most common, yet essential, element daily. We drink our fill, seldom contemplating how only a few hours without fresh water could threaten our very lives. We clean ourselves, cook our foods, irrigate our lawns and crops, water our livestock, and consume manufactured products — often without thinking how fortunate we are to have the water that is essential to each of those daily acts.

In our religious lives, water finds many uses as well. Jews and Christians find the word in over 500 verses in the Old Testament; 77 in the New. Whether used as a cleaning agent (Ex. 40:7) for those who entered the tabernacle to worship, in the baptism of Jesus (Matt. 3:16), or as a metaphor for eternal life (John 4:14), water represents

many bonds between people and God. In uses ranging from holy to ordinary, water represents life and hope in virtually every religious tradition.

For most Americans, the water in their daily lives comes from a pipe, hooked to a public water system. It seems automatic.

Few farm families today remember the anxiety as the first well on their land was dug or drilled; finally to result in a supply of water that meant a family could survive. For most farm and city dwellers alike, clean and ample water is simply "there." Only rarely must we recognize how precious, and how precariously balanced, are the living waters that support all life.

As populations rise and the full impact of past errors come into view, we are periodically reminded that the living waters — upon which all life depends — are themselves dependent upon how carefully humans treat the environment. Where people destroy, degrade, or pollute the world around them, they pay a terrible price, often first realized when the


waters upon which they depend vanish or turn against them.

From the oft-flooded plains of Bangladesh, where mountain watersheds in other countries can no longer regulate the flow of the great Ganges, to the United States' Mississippi Valley, where human attempts to contain and channel that great river system were cast aside like toys in the floods of 1993, the price of human impacts on the land are evident.

In huge regions of the world, the cleansing capacity of the living waters has been overwhelmed. Today the waters in major parts of Africa and Asia carry the seeds of death to millions — water-borne disease organisms responsible for the vast majority of infant deaths.

These problems present a challenge to people who believe humans hold a responsibility for the stewardship of God's creation. Sickness in the living waters signals sickness on the lands, sickness in the human condition, and a sickness of the soul as well.

— Compiled by the staff of the National Association of Conservation.



# THE LIVING WATERS

CELEBRATING SOIL & WATER STEWARDSHIP 1995

## THE FRAGMENTS

## And that's the way it was

It is difficult for me to get in the "stacks" at **The Baptist Record** without trying to read all the history on the shelf. Naturally when I saw the 1945 bound copies of **The Baptist Record**, I had to pause for a moment. It was 50 years ago... this April.

"We, the members of Strong River Baptist Church, Simpson County, Miss., do hereby agree to assemble together on the night following the day that Germany falls for... prayer and thanksgiving...."

J.H. Cothen was preaching in Good Hope in Perry County. There were 62 additions, 40 for baptism... The WMU of Agricola Church sent in \$51.10 for Home Missions. G.L. Taylor was pastor... and one lady told her husband it was a "sponge cake — I sponged the milk from the Smiths, the eggs from the Browns, and the flour from the Joneses."

Pastor W.L. Compere was leaving Fifteenth Ave. Church, Merid-

ian, for Northside Church (Woodland Hills) in Jackson.

Another Choctaw paid the supreme sacrifice. Lt. Charlie Tom Jones, former MC athlete, was killed on Iwo Jima... and a letter from Ensign Clayton H. Carpenter read: "Dear Mother... we sail at 4 p.m.... don't worry about me.... I've prayed all afternoon."

Buddy wrote from "somewhere in France": "... Dear Dad... war is terrible... maybe I will be home for Christmas in '45."

The mayor of Fort Worth, at the funeral of Lee R. Scarborough, called him the "Douglas McArthur of the Baptists." Chaplain N.B. Saucier of Coffeetown conducted the funeral service for Ernie Pyle on Ae Shima — near Japan.

W.G. Mize, superintendent at the orphanage, thanked all those who sent eggs to the children during Easter. First Church, Laurel, honored L.G. Gates on his 40th anniversary as their pastor.

Germany surrendered May 7, and the Japanese on August 14, 1945. Mississippians and **The Baptist Record** weathered the ordeal... perhaps a sense of humor such as this **Baptist Record** story helped: "Teacher: 'The sentence. "My father had money" is the past tense. Now Mary, what tense would you be speaking in if you said, "My father has money"?' Mary: 'Pretense.'"

And that's the way it was. 50 years ago. — GH

## The Living Waters

Soil and Water Stewardship Week  
April 30 - May 7, 1995



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## 1995 SBC PASTORS' CONFERENCE

Annual Meeting — June 18-19, 1995

Georgia Dome, Atlanta

Theme: *High and Lifted Up*

Sunday Afternoon, June 18

- 1:50 Music: Point of Grace, music evangelists Denise Jones, Terry Lang, Heather Floyd, Shelley Phillips
- 2:00 Music: soloist Jane Keel, Snellville, Ga.
- 2:03 Welcome: James Merritt, Snellville, Ga., president, 1995 Pastors' Conference
- 2:11 Musical Praise: Gold City Quartet
- 2:20 Message: Ken Whitten, Tampa, Fla.
- 2:45 Congregational Praise: **Wayne Grothman, Brandon**
- 2:50 Message: Danny Akin, Southeastern Seminary, Wake Forest, N.C.
- 3:15 Choral Praise: Adult and Youth Choir/Orchestra, First Church, Snellville, Ga.
- 3:18 Message: Robert Reccord, Norfolk, Va.
- 3:43 Prayer and Offering: Frank Cox, Duluth, Ga.
- 3:46 Testimony and Message: James T. Draper Jr., BSSB president
- 4:00 Congregational Praise: Billy Payne, Snellville, Ga.
- 4:03 Music: Point of Grace
- 4:07 Message: Jerry Sutton, Nashville
- 4:30 Benediction: Glen Cox, Clermont, Ga.

Sunday Evening

- 6:15 Pre-Session Musical Praise: Gold City Quartet
- 6:35 Welcome: James Merritt
- 6:40 Scripture and Prayer: Phil Roberts, HMB, Atlanta
- 6:45 Praise and Worship: David Oliver, Germantown, Tenn.
- 6:50 Music: music evangelist Bryan "Bo" Parker
- 6:55 Message: Jack Graham, Dallas
- 7:25 Praise and Worship: Joe Estes, Fayetteville, Ga.
- 7:30 Presentation by the SBC Brotherhood Commission of the Promise Keepers' 1996 Pastors' Conference in Atlanta: James Williams, Brotherhood Commission president, and Dale Schlafer, vice president of pastoral ministries, Promise Keepers
- 7:35 Music: Point of Grace
- 7:40 Message: Jerry Vines, Jacksonville, Fla.
- 8:10 Prayer and Offering: evangelist Jay Stack, Dallas
- 8:15 Musical Praise: Choir, First Church, Snellville, Ga.
- 8:20 Message: Chuck Colson, Prison Fellowship Ministries, Washington, D.C.
- 8:55 Celebration: Gold City Quartet, Point of Grace, Bryan "Bo" Parker, choirs
- 9:10 Benediction: John Yarborough, Perry, Ga.

Monday Morning, June 19

- 8:30 Choral Praise: Choir, Hickory Grove Church, Charlotte, N.C.
- 8:45 Scripture and Prayer: Hollie Miller, Knoxville, Tenn.
- 8:55 Music: Phil Cross and Poet Voice, music evangelists
- 9:00 Message: Gene Getz, Plano, Texas
- 9:30 Music: soloist Starla Harbin, Snellville, Ga.
- 9:35 Message: Joe Brown, Charlotte, N.C.
- 10:00 Praise and Worship: Roger Christian, Marietta, Ga.
- 10:05 Recognition of Roy Fish for 30 years of service at Southwestern Seminary: Alvin Reid, Houston Baptist University
- 10:10 Prayer and Offering: Larry Wynn, Dacula, Ga.
- 10:15 Music: Phil Cross and Poet Voices
- 10:25 Message: Fred Luter Jr., New Orleans
- 10:55 Choral Praise: Choir, Hickory Grove Church, Charlotte, N.C.
- 11:00 Message: evangelist Junior Hill, Hartselle, Ala.
- 11:30 Benediction: Donny Pickerill, Forest Park, Ga.

Monday Afternoon, June 19

- 1:15 Choral Praise: Choir, First Church, Woodstock, Ga.
- 1:30 Scripture and Prayer: evangelist Daniel Gage, Houston
- 1:35 Music: Point of Grace
- 1:40 Message: Paige Patterson, president, Southeastern Seminary
- 2:05 Congregational Music: **Larry Black, Jackson**
- 2:10 Choral Praise: Choir, First Church, Woodstock, Ga.
- 2:15 Message: Johnny M. Hunt, Woodstock, Ga.
- 2:40 Gold City Quartet
- 2:45 Election of Officers
- 2:55 Music: Bryan "Bo" Parker
- 3:00 Message: Ronnie Floyd, Springdale, Ark.
- 3:30 Prayer and Offering: Dwight "Ike" Reighard, Fayetteville, Ga.
- 3:35 Congregational Praise: Buster Pray, Springdale, Ark.
- 3:40 Recognition of J. Harold Smith: Freddie Gage, evangelist, Euless, Texas
- 3:50 Music: Gold City Quartet
- 4:00 Message: John Phillips, Memphis
- 4:30 Benediction: Jim Austin, Flowery Branch, Ga.

Monday Evening, June 19

- 6:10 Music: Gold City Quartet
- 6:25 Scripture and Prayer: Claude Thomas, Euless, Texas
- 6:30 Welcome: Jim Henry, SBC president, Orlando, Fla.
- 6:35 Congregational Praise: Denny Dawson, Franklin, Tenn.
- 6:40 Introduction of 1996 Pastors' Conference officers by James Merritt
- 6:45 Choral Praise: Choir, First Church, Snellville, Ga.
- 6:50 Message: Ravi Zacharias, Ravi Zacharias International Ministries, Atlanta
- 7:20 Presentation of Here's Hope: Share Jesus Now: Darrell Robinson, HMB
- 7:30 Choral Praise: Choir, First Church, Snellville, Ga.
- 7:35 Prayer and Offering: Bill Stafford, evangelist, Chattanooga, Tenn.
- 7:40 Choral Praise: Choir, First Church, Snellville, Ga.
- 7:45 Message: Adrian Rogers, pastor, Bellevue Church, Cordova, Tenn.
- 8:20 Music: music evangelists Terry and Barbi Franklin, Nashville
- 8:25 Message: John MacArthur, Sun Valley, Calif.
- 9:00 Grand Finale with mass choir: including **Park Place Church, Brandon**

THE SECOND FRONT PAGE

# The Baptist Record

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Thursday, April 20, 1995

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## RTVC trustees "seriously" concerned over restructure

FORT WORTH (BP) — Trustees of the Radio and Television Commission flirted April 11 with asking that the commission be retained as a separate agency rather than being merged with the Home Mission Board and Brotherhood Commission under the North American Mission Board, as proposed in the "Covenant for a New Century."

But when the rhetoric had cooled, they settled for a watered-down resolution to be sent to the SBC Executive Committee along with a list of "serious concerns" which they said need to be resolved before the matter is voted on by the Southern Baptist Convention in June.

Among the concerns, which they said have not been answered to date, are the cost of the move and how much it will save, why the need for relocation and why Atlanta, the number and division of trustees from each of the current three boards who will serve on the new board, and is there a proper understanding of the differences and uniqueness of the ministry of the RTVC.

The RTVC trustees were briefed Monday evening, April 10, by a member of the Program and Structure Study Committee, which drafted the proposed restructuring, and by two members of the SBC Executive Committee, which approved it and will recommend it to the SBC annual meeting.

The two Executive Committee members, Richard Cagle of Alabama and James Merritt of Georgia, were at the briefing, but Rex Terry, the PSSC member from Arkansas who is also an Executive Committee member, was unable to attend because of bad weather. Because of Terry's absence, one commission member told the **Texas Baptist Standard** newsjournal, many of the trustees' questions went unanswered, and many of the answers given by the SBC Executive Committee members were qualified by "I think."

When the trustees convened in their first plenary session Tuesday morning April 11, Jerry Holbert, trustee from Springfield, Mo., presented a statement asking the trustees to go on record saying they could not at present accept the merger; that it would downsize the RTVC, whose ministry needs to

be enhanced rather than jeopardized or minimized; and called on the SBC Executive Committee to amend the study to retain the RTVC as a "separate communications agency" of the SBC.

But while most reportedly had expressed reservations or asked questions about the restructuring the previous evening, several

committee didn't address the question in better form.

Morrison tried unsuccessfully to call the trustees into executive session. Richard T. McCartney, retired former executive vice president of the commission now serving as consultant to the president, spoke against going into executive session, saying Baptist business is done best in the open and reporters should hear the opinions expressed rather than get them second-hand after the meeting.

Commission trustees followed with adoption of a substitute motion by Wyman Copass of Kentucky approving largely unchanged the statement of their executive committee. It commends the PSSC for its time

and effort in drafting the restructuring proposal, affirms the trustees' responsibility to implement the actions of the SBC if the proposal is approved, but states the RTVC trustees have "serious concerns," which are to be attached to the resolution and which need to be resolved prior to the Southern Baptist Convention's consideration of the restructuring proposal.

spoke against Holbert's proposal. D.J. Benson of Mississippi said he felt it was premature and was "more of a September concern (after the SBC meeting) than an April concern"; Ernie Helton of Ohio questioned if any downsizing would actually occur, and Garland Morrison of Indiana questioned if a proposed resolution already drafted by the RTVC executive

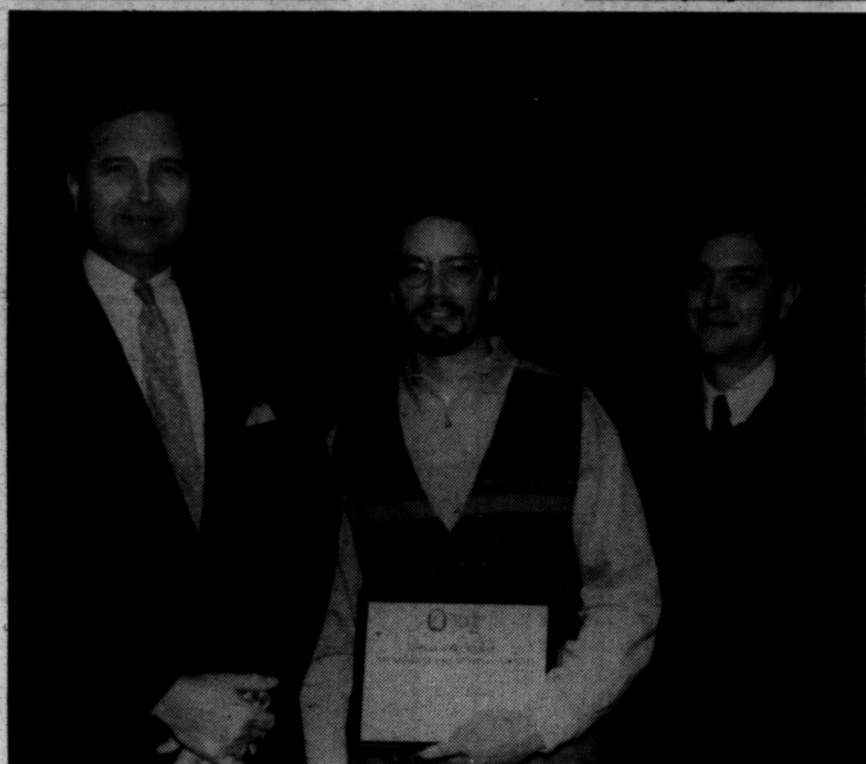
### Proposed restructure



### From the ashes...

Steve Hurt (center), minister of education at Calvary Church, Tupelo, reviews blueprints for the church's new 800-seat, radial-design sanctuary with Bill Smith (left) Lee County director of missions, and David Prevost, Calvary music minister. The \$4.5 million project, which includes 10,000 square feet of education space, replaces portions of the church destroyed by fire on Dec. 21, 1992. (Photograph by William H. Perkins Jr.)





## Cooper is Byrd award winner

**Jon Cooper** (center), son of Frank and Judy Cooper of Jackson and a member of Calvary Church, is the 1994-95 recipient of the Byrd Memorial Preaching Award at Mississippi College. The Byrd Memorial Preaching Award was established by David W. Byrd Jr., Harrel Byrd, and James Byrd, the three living sons of the late David Q. and Maude May Byrd of Clinton. All three sons are graduates of Mississippi College. Cooper, a senior majoring in Christian studies, won the award by submitting the sermon, "Have You Ever Been There?" Howell W. Todd (left), president of MC, presented the award. Loyd Allen (right), head of the Department of Christian Studies and Philosophy, was also present at the recent awards ceremony.

## Looking to Calvin, not Jesus, puts "cart before the horse," says Hobbs

**OKLAHOMA CITY (ABP)** — Baptist Calvinists who cite the views of early Southern Baptists such as James Petigru Boyce ought to listen instead to the words of Jesus, according to Herschel Hobbs.

Hobbs, pastor emeritus of First Church of Oklahoma City and chairman of the committee that drafted the "Baptist Faith and Message" statement, recently issued a written rebuttal of five-point Calvinism.

"I am more interested in what Jesus said and Paul wrote than what Boyce... wrote," said Hobbs, considered one of Southern Baptists' most influential modern theologians.

Boyce was the first president of Southern Seminary. The seminary's current president, Albert Mohler, often has cited the views of Boyce and other 19th-century Baptists as support for his own endorsement of five-point Calvinism.

Five-point Calvinism is a shorthand term used to describe a theological system developed primarily by the 16th-century theologian John Calvin. Five-point Calvinists assert that God selected certain people for

salvation — and therefore others for damnation — before the creation of the world.

In an interview with the *Western Recorder* last fall, Mohler defended his Calvinistic views, saying he believed the same views were held by the apostle Paul.

In his recent statement, Hobbs asserted that anyone who believes the apostle Paul was a Calvinist is "putting the cart before the horse about 1,500 years."

Calvinism's teaching that certain people have been predestined to salvation and others to damnation "is contrary to the very nature of God," Hobbs said. "Those who follow Calvin say that only the elect believe in Jesus as Savior. As I understand it, the opposite is true. Believers are the elect."

Hobbs said he agrees with a statement by Southern Baptist theologian **Frank Stagg of Diamondhead** that election is not a "rigged television show."

God's salvation through Jesus Christ is available to "anyone, anywhere, any time," Hobbs said, citing Jesus' words in John 3:16 that "whosoever believeth" may be saved.

# Seminary faculty votes to affirm social work school, ousted dean

**LOUISVILLE, Ky. (ABP)** — The faculty of Southern Seminary has overwhelmingly affirmed the seminary's embattled social work school and its former dean, Diana Garland.

During a faculty meeting on April 5, professors voted 37-2 with two abstentions to approve a resolution of support for the Carver School of Church Social Work and for Garland. All four deans of the seminary's other schools were present for the secret-ballot vote.

The Carver School has been at the center of seminary crisis since March 20, when President Albert Mohler fired Garland for telling students the president's new standards for faculty selection had placed the school "in serious jeopardy."

The firing followed a stalemate between Garland and Mohler over the election of a candidate to fill a vacancy on the social work school's faculty.

Garland and a search committee had recommended David Sherwood, director of the social work program at Gordon College in Massachusetts. In addition to affirming the seminary's 1859 Abstract of Principles and 1991 "covenant renewal" document, Mohler required Sherwood to state his views on abortion, homosexuality, women in ministry, and the uniqueness of the gospel.

Mohler rejected Sherwood for his answer on women in ministry. The professor wrote that the Holy Spirit might call "certain (but not all) women... to any role in the ministry of the church," a position Mohler found unacceptable.

Alleging that Mohler's new requirements make it impossible for the Carver School to hire qualified faculty, Garland told students the school might lose its accreditation and possibly even die as a result.

After Mohler fired Garland,

close observers of the academic-accreditation process conceded Garland's predictions might come true. They also surmised the seminary itself might get in trouble with its general accrediting agencies.

In that context, the seminary faculty pledged its support for the Carver School and for Garland, who remains as professor of church social work.

"Over 10 years ago, divine God led inspired minds and hearts to dream, create, and found the Carver School... as the first and only accredited school of church social work within a seminary context in the world," the resolution states.

The resolution praises Garland and her predecessor, Anne Davis, who also still teaches at the seminary, for their leadership in building "an excellent faculty of church social workers to teach in this place."

## Carver School crisis costs Southern Seminary "major" project donation

**LOUISVILLE, Ky. (ABP)** — The Carver School crisis at Southern Seminary has set back fundraising efforts for the next major building project on campus.

A donor last week withdrew a "major" pledge toward the North Complex, a proposed continuing education center, said Tom Mabe, seminary vice president for advancement. He would not specify the amount of the pledge.

However, Mabe pointed out that the seminary also received a "million-dollar gift" toward the same project last week.

Seminary trustees were to hear a proposal to proceed with the building project in their April 17-19 meeting.

"We can't say we lost it because we never had it," he explained.

In the last fiscal year, which ended July 31, 1994, the seminary reported a record \$7.5 million in contributions. However, nearly half that amount was given in deferred gifts that may not be realized until the donors die.

Also, more than \$2 million of that amount was designated for the seminary's new Billy Graham School of Evangelism, Missions, and Church Growth.

Both the total number of donors and the total number of alumni donors have decreased in the last two years, Mabe said. However, he would not specify the extent of that decrease.

Also, the seminary pastor's position will be eliminated this summer at Southern Seminary, according to Bill Cubine, who cur-

rently holds the position.

Enrollment in the seminary's key degree programs has been declining for several years, and that decline appears to be more pronounced since the 1991-92 academic year. For example, enrollment in the master of divinity program, the seminary's most basic degree, has declined from 913 students in 1990-91 to 796 in 1993-94, the latest year for which complete figures are available.

Enrollment figures translate into financial figures, because the seminary gets a certain amount of funding from the Southern Baptist Convention for each student enrolled. Fewer students also means decreased revenue in auxiliary enterprises such as campus housing and student fees.



## Lafayette-Marshall vols build two churches

Nearly 70 missionaries representing 17 churches from Lafayette and Marshall counties returned March 20 from 10 days in Ponta Pora, Brazil, near the Paraguay border. The volunteers collected \$18,000 for construction materials; built two church buildings for local Baptists; conducted medical clinics, Bible studies, and evangelism; and reported 1,050 professions

of faith. The clinics were staffed by pediatrician Joe Harris of Oxford. Don Stanfill, director of missions for Marshall and Lafayette associations, led the evangelism team and preached to Ponta Pora residents. The two church buildings were dedicated by the end of the week's efforts. The Brazil trip is the fourth made by members of the two associations.

## Former pastor Catledge dies

Howard Catledge, age 81, died April 13 in Meridian.

Catledge had served as pastor of First Church, Marrero, La., for 12 years, and had pastored several church in Lauderdale County. He had lived in Meridian for the past 20 years.

He is survived by his wife and son.



# Spring break outreach reports point to nationwide awakening

By Mark Christie

FORT WORTH (BP) — Evidence of a national spiritual awakening is becoming even more convincing.

So says Dan Crawford, professor of evangelism and director of Southwestern Seminary's Spring Evangelism Practicum program. More than 140 professions of faith were reported as a result of Spring Practicum students' ministries over this year's spring break.

The number of reconciliations and confessions in churches exceeded previous years, Crawford said. He noted more than 274 public rededications were made in response to over 565 sermons given by the students.

"I think this is linked in God's sovereignty with what he is doing around the country. Usually, when these things happen, God revives his people and evangelism follows," Crawford said.

This year's 36th annual spring practicum focused on 25 states, the District of Columbia, and Canada. All of the ministry sites were outside the Bible Belt.

Spring Practicum is sponsored by Southwestern's Department of Evangelism. Students assist small

churches in revival meetings during the seminary recess.

Southwestern's participation this year was made possible by a \$20,000 gift from Joe Hayes of Traveler's Rest, S.C. Hayes is a family member of David Hayes, a May 1994 graduate of Southwestern.

"We don't try to prepare the students to send revival; we ask God to send revival," Crawford said.

Kevin Perrigan, a master of divinity student, described each day of his experience at Kalama Church in Washington state as "a new adventure."

Every night, Perrigan saw "people convicted, hearts softened, and public commitments to God's service." He said the experience showed him the changes commitment brings in people's lives. While Spring Practicum students were in revivals across the nation, 20 other Southwestern students were in intensive beach outreach at South Padre Island, Texas.

Darren Tipton, who directed the South Padre project, reported more than 280 professions of faith.

The Southwesterners were

joined by more than 300 students from Baptist student ministries in Texas. Their task involved witnessing to vacationing college students while providing free transportation.

Each year, thousands of college students stream to South Padre Island during spring break, and each year the need for ministry seems more apparent, Tipton said.

"Every year there is more drinking, and more accidents occur. But, the student response is also greater," said Tipton, citing the South Padre outreach as proof "spur of the moment evangelism" still works.

The Southwestern students at South Padre reportedly distributed more than 60,000 "Bridge to Life" tracts during the week-long venture.

"When you see the hopelessness, you realize the message you have is an urgent message," Tipton said. "It is a great thing to have an evangelistic campaign in your church or a discipleship program, but if you don't go where the people are, who will?"

Christie writes for the PR office, Southwestern Seminary.



## Woman's College group meets

Alumnae of Mississippi Woman's College met recently at First Church, Jackson, for their annual March fellowship luncheon. The college changed its name to William Carey College and began admitting males to the Hattiesburg campus during the 1955-56 session. For more information on the Mississippi Woman's College group, contact Jimmie Reese Morgan at (601) 957-2045. (Photograph by William H. Perkins Jr.)

## Missionaries survive close calls with robbers in Africa, S. America

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — Two Foreign Mission Board missionaries on different continents recently survived close calls during robbery attempts in cities where they work.

Missionary Ken Baker of St. Augustine, Fla., was accosted April 10 in Abengourou, Cote d'Ivoire (Ivory Coast), by four men who ordered him into his car at gunpoint.

The four men forced Baker to drive about 15 miles out of the west African city. Baker, a dentist, works in a rural dental project in the area.

During the incident, one robber held a gun to Baker's head and terrorized him by repeatedly threatening to kill him and occasionally firing into the air. Eventually, the assailants ordered him from the car and stole his billfold, wedding ring, glasses, and about \$500 of

mission money.

A few weeks earlier, missionary Johnny Burnett, from Terrell, Texas, also faced a life-threatening brush with a robber in Belem, Brazil. Burnett's troubles began when he came home March 15 to find an outside door had been broken. Burnett entered the house and found an intruder in an upstairs bathroom.

Seeing the robber, Burnett turned and ran down the steps, yelling at the intruder to get out of the house, said fellow missionary Loretta Williams, from Knoxville, Tenn.

The robber fired a shot at Burnett but missed. Then he ran down the steps after Burnett, shooting and missing again. Outside, Burnett retreated to the back corner of the house while the assailant fled the scene.

## Mission volunteers to be honored at celebration

The National Volunteer Celebration, sponsored by the Home Mission Board (HMB), will take place Sept. 15-19 in Arlington, Texas. The celebration is a gathering of Southern Baptist mission volunteers and is a cooperative effort between the HMB, Foreign Mission Board, Woman's Missionary Union, Brotherhood, and state conventions.

Each year, more than 85,000 Southern Baptists respond to God's call to hands-on missions all over the world. The event will celebrate the emerging "age of the volunteer." Reservations for the celebration should be made prior to Aug. 15. For more information, contact the HMB at 1-800-HMB-VOLS (1-800-462-8675).

## HMB gives revival priority over proposal to reorganize SBC

ATLANTA (BP) — Prayer for revival took precedence over discussion of a proposed restructuring of the Southern Baptist Convention during the Home Mission Board (HMB) directors' meeting April 10-12.

Two sessions were planned for board members to discuss the SBC Program and Structure Study Committee report which will be presented to the SBC in June. That report recommends combining the HMB with the Brotherhood and Radio and Television commissions. A question-and-answer ses-

sion with three members of the SBC Executive Committee was held as planned on Monday evening. HMB directors said the session was very productive.

In other business, Stephen Swofford, pastor of First Church, Rockwall, Texas, was elected HMB chairman. Swofford, currently chairman of the missionary personnel committee, has served on the board since 1988. He is a graduate of Southwestern Seminary in Texas.

Other officers are Greg Martin, pastor of Commission Road

Church, Long Beach, first vice chairman; Kenneth Cheek, pastor of Northridge Church, Northport, Ala., second vice chairman; Cloma Odom, member of Central Church, Warner Robins, Ga., secretary; and Marti Hefley, member of Immanuel Church, Hannibal, Mo., assistant secretary.

Jimmy Anderson, Indian church developer and program leader for the General Convention of Oklahoma since 1981, was elected assistant director for Native American church growth in the language church extension division. Anderson, who was born in Kansas City, Mo., will continue to live in Oklahoma as he serves on the HMB field staff. He fills a position vacated by Russell Begaye who was elected director of the HMB's language church extension division in December.

Randy Wood was elected associate director of the Missionary Personnel Department. The Ohio native has been director of missions for the Maumee Valley and Northwest associations in Ohio since 1990. He is a former church planter and pastor in Ohio. He takes a post held by Ron Holloway who is retiring April 30.

The board also voted to name the 500-seat auditorium in the new national office building in memory of Southern Baptist businessman Cecil B. Day whose estate established a \$12 million trust fund for home missions. Since 1981, the Day Fund has provided more than \$9 million to start churches, support evangelism projects, and minister to needs of people.

## Bible translated into 341 languages, portions in 2,092

NEW YORK (ABP) — The complete Bible is now available in 341 of the world's languages and the New Testament in 822, according to an annual report by a group committed to translating, publishing, and distributing the Scriptures.

At least one book of the Bible is now available in 2,092 of the world's estimated 6,000 languages, said Eugene Habecker, president of the American Bible Society, while releasing the 1994 Scripture Language Report. The report was compiled by the New York-based Bible society and its global partner, the United Bible Societies.

"While this is a major accomplishment, we must continue the work," Habecker said.

At least a portion of Scripture appeared in 27 new languages, according to the report. Four new

Bibles were reported and the New Testament was made available for the first time in 18 more languages.

Among new portions of Scripture, defined in the report as at least one complete book of the Bible, was an American Bible Society publication of the Gospel of Luke in Gullah, a Creole language that developed out of the American slave trade. Gullah is still spoken today, in varying proficiency, by an estimated 250,000 people, mostly African Americans in the southeastern coastal region of the United States, the report said. The book is now in its third printing, at over 10,000 copies.

One of the four new complete translations is an Imbabura Quichua Bible, which was launched and dedicated in Ecuador last October.

### Lamar Association dedicates facility

The Lamar Association will dedicate its new 7,200-square foot multi-purpose building on April 30 at 3 p.m. The building, located on Highway 589 in Purvis, houses administrative offices, a mission ministries center, activity room, and class rooms. Volunteer labor completed the building in eight months under the supervision of Richard Miley. Doug Benedict is Lamar Association director of missions.

For more information, contact the associational offices at (601) 268-7334.





# Inauguration of Howell W. Todd

## 18th president of Mississippi College

### Todd returns to Mississippi to lead state Baptist institution

By William H. Perkins Jr.

The new president of Mississippi College is happy to be back in Mississippi, and he doesn't mind saying so.

"When I left Oxford almost 25 years ago for the University of Illinois, I wondered if I would ever return to a state and a people I had learned to love. And now, 25 years later, to return to this wonderful state to lead this excellent institution called Mississippi College makes this a truly extraordinary day for me," said Howell W. Todd, who holds a master's degree from the University of Mississippi in Oxford and a doctoral degree from the University of Illinois.

Tennessee native Todd, 51, will be inaugurated April 28 as the 18th president of Baptist-affiliated Mississippi College (MC) in Clinton, capping a week of festivities celebrating his ascension to the top job at MC.

Southern Baptist Convention president Jim Henry, pastor of First Church, Orlando, Fla., and a close friend from their days together at Two Rivers Church in Nashville, will be the featured speaker at Todd's Inaugural Convocation, slated to begin at 10 a.m. on April 28 at First Church, Jackson.

Todd said he has spent a great

deal of time on the road since moving to MC's campus in July 1994.

"I have not turned down a single opportunity to speak, unless there was a conflict. I have thoroughly

"There has never been a time in our history when there was more need for an institution like Mississippi College, where we can teach strong morals and Christian values," he stressed.

Todd wants to see a strong and vibrant religious education department at MC, focusing on students who are planning full-time or bivocational Christian service.

Near-term goals Todd wants to address on the Clinton campus are the need for a new men's residence hall and improvements involving the

### Schedule of Events

#### Sunday, April 23

10:30 a.m. Worship Service First Church, Clinton

#### Monday, April 24

7:30 p.m. Inaugural Concert Provine Chapel, Campus

#### Wednesday, April 26

10 a.m. Chapel Service Nelson Hall, Campus

Noon Luncheon on the Quad Campus

#### Friday, April 28

10 a.m. Inaugural Convocation First Church, Jackson

Noon Inaugural Reception First Church, Jackson

7 p.m. "Naturally Spectacular" Nelson Hall, Campus

enjoyed getting reacquainted with Mississippi and making new friends," Todd said.

The road time has enabled Todd to get a feeling for the depth of support MC enjoys across the state.

"There is a fierceness of loyalty to Mississippi College that I haven't found at other institutions. So many lives have been positively affected by this institution.

"I hear comments like, 'I am successful today because of Mississippi College.' We are 169 years old, and our best days are ahead," said Todd, who is single.

The Baptist deacon has big plans for the 3591-student campus.

campus physical plant.

"We have major needs in the physical plant area," he pointed out.

Long-range planning is being carried out by a strategic planning committee, Todd said.

"It is important that people say what they feel about MC, helping identify programs, buildings, and services for the future," he said.

"I can assure you that we will remain true to Mississippi College's traditional guiding principles and will foster an atmosphere for academic achievement and educational advancement in a Christian environment," Todd promised.

### "Naturally Spectacular" to celebrate Todd inauguration with guest Hovis

The inaugural gala for Howell W. Todd, scheduled for 7 p.m. on Friday, April 28 in Nelson Hall on campus, will feature the fast-paced Mississippi College Naturals performing troupe along with special guest Guy Hovis, in their annual "Naturally Spectacular" revue.

Hovis, a Tupelo native, is best known for his 12-year stint on the Lawrence Welk television show, still a popular feature on public broadcasting channels around the country. He has also appeared with Bob Hope, Johnny Carson, Lucille Ball, Mike Douglas, Merv Griffin, Jim Nabors, Dinah Shore, and other well-known performers.



Hovis

Hovis's stage roles include "Carousel," "South Pacific," "Oklahoma," and "Brigadoon." For information on a pre-concert buffet with Hovis, call (601) 925-3856.

The Naturals, composed entirely of Mississippi College students, travel throughout Mississippi and the southeast United States to perform for churches, schools, civic/community organizations, and regional as well as national conventions. They performed before more than 40,000 people last year.

The highlight of the gala will be a tribute to the heroes of World War II in honor of the fiftieth anniversary of the end of the war. A collection of tunes from the 1940s will be featured and all veterans present at the gala will be recognized during a medley of theme songs of the armed forces.

"The Naturals have a really good time while they are perform-

ing, and it's pretty contagious, so we look forward to an entertaining evening for those who attend," said Richard Joiner, head of the Music Department at MC.

Reserved seat tickets are \$12.50 each, and may be purchased at the MC Office of Continuing Education in Clinton; Baptist Book Store at Ridgewood Court in Jackson; Maranatha Book Stores at Picadilly Square and Colonial Mart in Jackson; The Music Box at Northpark Mall in Ridgeland; and the MC downtown Jackson office in Deposit Guaranty Plaza.

Discount tickets at \$10.50 per seat are available for groups of 15 or more people. Groups who would like to have dinner in the MC cafeteria before the gala can make reservations by calling (601) 925-3856.

For more information, call (601) 925-3262.



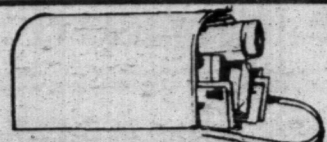
### The Todd File

1943	Born in Huntingdon (Carroll County), Tennessee.
1965	Bachelor of science in secondary education/mathematics/chemistry degree from University of Tennessee at Martin.
1968	Master of science in mathematics degree from University of Mississippi in Oxford.
1972	Ph.D. in mathematics education from University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.
1972	Director of research, planning, and evaluation for the Tennessee State Board of Education and Department of Education.
1977	Executive director of the Tennessee Governmental Reorganization Commission of the Tennessee General Assembly.
1981	Vice-chancellor for administration/executive assistant to the chancellor for the Tennessee state university and community college system.
1989	Executive director of the South Dakota Board of Regents.
1994	President of Mississippi College.



The Naturals (above) with special guest Guy Hovis will perform their annual "Naturally Spectacular" revue April 28 at the 7 p.m. inaugural gala in honor of new Mississippi College president Howell W. Todd, who will be inaugurated at a convocation earlier in the day at First Church, Jackson.





# Letters to the editor



## Plea from Bolivia

Editor:

Recently in a conversation with a Bolivian friend, we were talking about the critical situation of the Bolivian family. Statistics show that incidences of violence are on the increase and the need to do something is urgent. Over 1,000 children are living on the streets in Santa Cruz and over 280,000 are working to support their families. They begin to work at the age of 4 to 5 and many are sole supporters of the family by age 10. Many of these children are from broken homes where drugs and alcohol have destroyed the family unit. We asked ourselves what is being done, what can be done to meet these needs.

Rafael told me of one family in his church. They were having problems and were each going their own way. Rafael invited them to church, but they did not have time. For over a year he

prayed and talked with them about their family situation. During this time a child was born, but this only made things worse. They were fighting most of the time and each had an affair going on. Nothing that Rafael had done seemed to have made a difference. The man worked for the telephone company. One day at work he was thinking about how his family was at the beginning. As he was checking lines on the telephone cable "by chance" he came across the message of Teleamigo. He only got half the message so he listened again to the whole message. He liked what he heard and began each day listening to these few words of encouragement. After about a month he told his wife about the number and she began to listen. Within six months they called Rafael and asked if they could go to church with him. Of course he said yes. Well, to make a long story short, both accepted Christ as Savior and are

active in church today.

Some say it was just by chance that Hector tapped into the Teleamigo line that day. I say it was not just blind chance but divine providence. Was it "chance" that led missionaries Lamar Tribble and George Lozuk to begin planning this project over seven years ago? Was it "chance" that prompted Southern Baptists to give and pray so that this ministry could become a reality? Was it "chance" that led both nationals and missionaries in Bolivia to give time and money so that the ministry could continue to function today? Some may call it "chance," "coincidence," or one of many other words, but for Hector and his family, for Rafael and his church, it is a blessing from God. Thanks to all who have had a part in reaching Hector and many others like him that we know nothing about, but God does and it is not by "chance."

Teleamigo is a ministry of the Bolivian Baptist Convention with the help of the Foreign Mission Board. Each day over 100 people call to receive a message of hope and joy in Jesus Christ. They are also given a chance to call and talk to a counselor about their problem or ask for prayer. In 1994 over 59,000 calls were made to Teleamigo and almost 2,000 came to the center looking for "orientation" of some kind or another. On March 17, 1995, the center had its fifth anniversary. To this point it has received over 170,000 calls.

There are over 75 enrolled in Bible studies, many of whom accept Christ as Savior. Thank you, Southern Baptists, for helping make this ministry possible. Pray that God will continue to use it for his glory and we will leave the results in his hands.

Kenneth Bailey  
Santa Cruz, Bolivia

*Editor's Note: Bailey and his wife Ruth are natives of Vardaman (Miss.), and work in Bolivia's Christian Orientation Center.*

## Parenting priorities

Editor:

So many times we fail to remember our parents and what they have done for us.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank my father for leading me to Christ. Not every father or mother can say this. Many times my father and mother did without, as many parents do, so we children could have what we needed. I am very thankful for my Christian raising, for without it in this awful world we live in, I don't know what I would do.

So many times we blame other people and the world for our children going astray. However, I was taught that it is the parents' first obligation to bring their children to Christ. If we don't do this, we can't blame anyone else for our children's wrongdoings. We should also be an example before them.

I would like to challenge every parent to do as I have done in the past few months. Stop and take a look at your life and decide just what are the priorities in your life. They should be love for God, family, and friends. If we will just put God and his will first, everything else will fall in place.

God bless Christian parents.  
Linda Vanlandingham  
Houston

## Missing the point

Editor:

Is it possible to do the right thing for the wrong reason, and to invalidate the good which could have come from having done the right thing? Richard Land [of the SBC Christian Life Commission] and Larry Lewis [of the Home Mission Board] have proved that it is. They removed their names from the "Evangelicals and Catholics Together" (ECT) document, but then argue they only did so because:

1. Southern Baptists could not understand that they did this as individuals and not as agency heads.

2. Critics distorted the content of the ECT document.

Land even boasted that he did not regret signing the document. How can it be that one withdraws one's signature from a document which has "offended... a significant number of Southern Baptists" and then declare that he did not regret having signed it to begin with?

Lewis and Land miss the point. Southern Baptists have been upset about this document because:

1. They could not imagine SBC leaders signing a document which states that Roman Catholic mission efforts are founded on biblical principles of missiology (ECT, p. 2). Historically, Roman Catholic missions have been marked more by syncretism than by prophetic preaching of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

2. They could not imagine leaders who would say, "Among points of difference in doctrine, worship, practice, and piety that are frequently thought to divide us are..." (ECT, p. 9). Some of the issues which are only "thought" to divide us, according to ECT, resulted in men dying at the stake, being drowned, or losing their freedom.

3. Southern Baptists could not believe that SBC agency heads would sign a document which stated: "Those converted — whether understood as having received the new birth for the first time or as having experienced the reawakening of the new birth originally bestowed in the sacrament of baptism — must be given full freedom and respect as they discern and decide the community in which they will live their new life in Christ."

Tragically, Lewis and Land miss the point. Their signatures have been officially removed from this document. But, like a file which has been erased from a computer, its shadow remains on the disk. And, by Land's own testimony, opportunity only awaits for him to rejoin Chuck Colson in an ecumenical effort which subordinates truth to a misguided concept of unity and of love. Tragically, Lewis and Land, in their hour of victory in exercising noble leadership, snatched defeat from the very jaws of victory by modifying their action with a declaration of contempt for their Southern Baptist brethren whose legitimate concerns they neither understood nor acknowledged.

James L. Holly  
Mission Ministry to Men  
Beaumont, Texas

## Liberty marks 150th year

Liberty Church, Toomsaba, will celebrate its 150th anniversary at its annual homecoming on May 7.

Liberty Church was organized May 31, 1845, and has never disbanded or ceased to have services since that time.

The anniversary celebration will begin with a service at 10:30 a.m., followed by lunch and an afternoon celebration.

For more information, contact the church at: 5641 Liberty Church Rd., Toomsaba, MS 39364.

Ed Smith of Meridian is Liberty Church pastor.

*the Eighth Annual*

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## Names in the News

WAKE FOREST, N.C. (BP) — Calling David Beck a "scholar's scholar," Southeastern Seminary President Paige Patterson announced Beck's appointment as assistant professor of New Testament March 29. Beck, who currently serves on Southeastern's faculty as an adjunct professor, holds a Ph.D. from Duke University, Durham, N.C., with work in the gospel of John, and also has been in the pastorate 14 years.

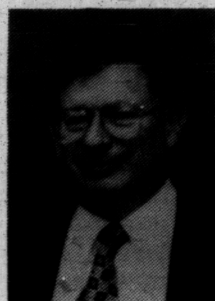
John Weisz taught an intensive course in clinical psychology at the Mississippi College Department of Psychology/Counseling in March. Weisz is renowned for his research on providing mental health services to children and adolescents. He has also published two of the four major research reviews on this topic. A Clinton native, he graduated from Clinton High School in 1963 and earned his bachelor's degree from MC in 1967.

Curtis Price was ordained by Terry Road Church, Jackson, on March 26. Henry Bennett preached the sermon, James Netherland gave the charge, and Del Gann led the ordination prayer. Price will serve as pastor of Poplar Church, Newton County.

Read Diket, assistant professor of art and education, director of honors program and creative scholars

center at William Carey College, Hattiesburg, has several recent publications. She was co-editor of **Trends in Art Education from Diverse Cultures**, a collection of articles by international scholars. A chapter titled, "Context for a Profile of a High Achieving Preservice Early Childhood Education Major in an Arts Methods Course" contributed to a book to be published by the National Art Association in 1995 entitled, **Preservice Art Education: Issues and Practices**.

Joe Young of Charleston was recently named one of three recipients of the Exemplary Bivocational Pastor of the Year awards presented by the Home Mission Board. He is pastor of Parks Church, Glendora, and Calvary Chapel, Parchman (a former mission of Parks). In his 22-year ministry in Mississippi he has led in starting two new churches and re-opening two that had closed. A Spanish teacher at Charleston High School and part-time instructor for Northwest Community College, he has led teams of volunteers on medical-dental-evangelistic projects in Mexico.



Young

Roy Fairchild, former music director of Center Hill Church, Monroe County, died March 20. He had served as clerk of the Monroe County Association. The Men's Bible Class, Marvin Taylor, teacher, passed a resolution honoring Fairchild for his 65 years of service.

Leland Ryken, chair of the English Department at Wheaton College, Wheaton, Ill., will be the guest lecturer for the Lipsey Lecture at Mississippi College on May 1 at 7:30 p.m. in the Hall of Fame Room of the B.C. Rogers Student Center. The Lipsey Lec-



ture honors Sue Price Lipsey, retired MC English professor. The lectureship seeks to provide the college and community with outstanding speakers in the humanities, to stimulate intellectual curiosity and an awareness of the larger academic and scholarly community. Call (601) 925-3215 for more information.

Ann Pell, retired, served Unity Church, Pascagoula, as church clerk for 30 years, church secretary for 23 years, and church treasurer for seven years. Ray Spence II is pastor of Unity Church.



Deanna Kemp of Forest will be presented in her junior voice recital in the Aven Auditorium on the Mississippi College campus, April 24 at 3 p.m. The recital is free and open to the public. Kemp is the daughter of Dwight Kemp of Jackson and David and Jean Hawkins of Forest.

## Just for the Record



Mississippi Baptist Medical Center announced the winner of the 1994 Katherine Feldman Annual Scholarship, Mary Ellen Reeve; and joint recipients of the first MBMC Auxiliary Scholarship, Leigh Anne Richardson and Kristi Henderson. Each received \$1,000 toward their tuition at the Mississippi College School of Nursing. Pictured, from left, are Margaret Armstrong, director of Volunteer Services; Dot Terry, 1994-95 Auxiliary president; Reeve, Richardson, and Henderson.

Steele Church, Forest, will host the **Southern Plainsmen**, gospel quartet of Alexandria, La., in a gospel singing on April 29 at 7 p.m. A love offering will be taken.

Mississippi Baptist Medical Center's modern laser therapy is giving patients proven solutions for facial reconstructive procedures and treatment of unwanted

birthmarks, brown spots, or tattoos. "Technical refinements of lasers used in plastic and reconstructive surgery have made it possible to treat various types of lesions or tattoos without leaving equally undesirable scars," said Kenneth Barraza, a board certified plastic surgeon and MBMC staff member. For more information call the Healthcaring Line at 1-800-984-MBMC (6262).

### CLASSIFIED ADS

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**CHURCH RENOVATION SALE.** 68 Pews, pulpit furniture, choir robes, folding machine. Contact Wayne Swafford at Grace Memorial Baptist Church, Slidell, LA (504) 643-6017.

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**DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES** Ministry of the Georgia Baptist Children's Homes and Family Ministries, Inc. (DDM) is currently looking for couples without dependent children and singles to fill live-in FT positions in the metro Atlanta area. DDM is a statewide program of group homes serving adults with mental retardation. The work schedule is 6 days on, 3 days off. Qual. incl. HS education or GED, min. age of 21, experience in the field of developmentally disabled, skills in home management and daily record keeping, ability to provide training in basic living skills as outlined in the resident's individual program plan, a desire to work in a Christian environment, own your own car, and have a good driving record and no criminal record. CPR and First Aid certificates required after employ-

ment. Insurance, on-duty housing and food provided. Off-duty housing may be available. Salary range per person is \$9,864-\$11,976 depending on educ. and exp. Call Judy George, 1-800-577-3034 Mondays, Tuesdays and Fridays for further information.

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**HOT OFF THE PRESSES!** Baptism Manual (\$18.50) and Lord's Supper Manual (\$12.45) provide suggestions to enhance these observances. To order: Metro Peoria Baptist Association, 2018 N. Wisconsin Ave., Peoria, IL 61603-2626; (309) 682-3680. Author is Gerald Steffy, DOM Peoria, Ill. Contributors include Darrell Robinson and Landrum Leavell.

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## Beeler dies March 5

Earl Beeler, age 70, died March 5 at his home in Oxford.

A Baptist minister for 45 years, Beeler served churches in north Mississippi, California, Connecticut, Wyoming, and Montana. For the past seven years, he performed dramatic monologues of Peter, Paul, Moses, and Joshua in churches across the U.S.

Beeler was also a lifelong educator in public schools in Batesville, Water Valley, and Lafayette County, as well as New Mexico, California, and Louisiana.

A U.S. Marine Corps veteran, Beeler was a member of First Church, Oxford.

He is survived by his wife.

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# Revival Results

**Cloverdale, Natchez:** Feb. 19-22; eight professions of faith; Tommy Green, Columbus, Ga., evangelist; Price Harris, Shreveport, La., music; David McGuffee, pastor.

**First, Polkville:** March 12-15; 18 professions of faith; Jerry Swimmer, evangelist; Fred Fowler, pastor.

**Puckett (Rankin):** March 26-29; 20 professions of faith; Alvin Doyle, missionary to Nigeria, evangelist; Bo Parker, music; Barry Ward, pastor.

**Phillipston (Sidon):** Apr. 2-5; seven professions of faith; Jeff Floyd Greenwood, evangelist;

Eloise Gove, Sidon, music; Lester Jeffers, pastor.

**Parkview, Picayune:** six professions of faith; Barry Ward, Puckett, evangelist; Jim Futral, music; Cecil Jones, pastor.

**Harmony, Louisville:** March 5-9; 20 professions of faith; Gary Jackson, Sturgis, evangelist; Don Wallace, Louisville, music; Jerry Lundy, pastor.

**Faith (Benton-Tippah):** March 26-29; two professions of faith; Kenny Digby, evangelist; Steve Parrish, Pontotoc, music; W.G. Dowdy, pastor.

## Homecomings

**Puckett (Rankin):** April 23; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship, 10:45; dinner in the fellowship hall; Alvin Doyle, guest speaker; Barry Ward, pastor.

**Wanilla (Lawrence):** April 30; 11 a.m.; lunch, noon; afternoon

singing, 1:30 p.m.; Stanley Smith, Henderson, Tenn., speaker; Eddie Myers, pastor.

**Wesson (Copiah):** April 30; morning services, 10:45 a.m.; lunch afterward; Mike Cafr, pastor.

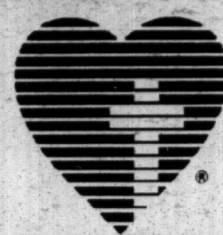
**Wake Forest, Sturgis:** April 23; services, 11 a.m.; lunch, noon; Roy Hawkins, Columbus, guest speaker; Tim Parker, pastor.

**East Mt. Zion, Baldwin:** May 7; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m.; lunch in fellowship hall; afternoon singing, 1:30; Charlie Thom, Red Bay, Ala., guest speaker; Gerald Cagle, pastor.

Thursday, April 20, 1995

BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 9

# Revival Dates



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**Clear Springs (Yalobusha):** April 23-29; Sunday service, 6:30 p.m.; Mon.-Fri., 7:30 p.m.; Dwight Brown, Big Creek, evangelist; Lonnie Waller, pastor.

**Hopewell (Choctaw):** April 27-30; services, Fri. and Sat., 7 p.m.; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Paul Blanchard, speaker; Charles Rook, pastor.

**Shady Grove, Hazlehurst:** April 20-23; services, Thurs.-Sat., 7 p.m.; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Gerald Martin, Vicksburg, evangelist; Roger Banes, Magnolia, April 20 and 21, music; Steve Bartlett, Wesson, April 22 and 23, music; Robert W. Netterville Jr., pastor.

**Union, Sardis:** April 23-26; Sunday, 6:30 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Sean Tutor, Plantersville, evangelist; Kenneth Kelly, pastor.

**Christ, Greenwood:** April 23-26; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Lester Jeffords, Sidon, evangelist; Billy Nelson, music; Joe Brown, pastor.

**Bethsaida, Philadelphia:** April 30-May 3; Sun.-Wed., 10 a.m. and

7 p.m.; Gordon Sansing Jr., Vicksburg, evangelist; Danny Skinner, Bethsaida Church, music; Jerry Guess, pastor.

**Wake Forest, Sturgis:** April 30-May 5; services, 7 p.m. nightly; Jim Hill Family, Gilmer, Ala., preaching and singing; Tim Parker, pastor.

**Star, Star:** April 30-May 3; Sunday services, Sunday School, 9 a.m., worship 10 a.m., lunch, 11:15 a.m., Discipleship Training, 5 p.m., worship, 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7:15 p.m.; Gary Bowlin, evangelist; Mike Wade, music; Vic Bowman, pastor.

**Parkway, Pascagoula:** May 7-11; Sunday, 10:30 a.m. and 5:30 p.m.; Mon.-Thurs., 7 p.m.; Brannon Pinion, evangelist; Jack D. House, pastor.

**Alta Woods, Jackson:** April 30-May 3; Sunday, 10:30 a.m. and 5:30 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Paul Wrenn, Jacksonville, Fla., evangelist; Stan Loyd, Pascagoula, music; Frank Thomas, pastor.

**Harmontown (Lafayette):** April 23-27; evangelists: Troy Defer, Sunday; Randy Hope, Mon.; Don Stanfill, Tues.; Truett Allen, Wed.; Jimmy Williams, Thurs.; Glenn Herring, Harmontown, music; Barry Littlefield, pastor.

## Historic Ebenezer Church celebrates 175th birthday

Ebenezer Church, Bassfield, will observe its 175th anniversary beginning with a fellowship on April 29 at 6:30 p.m. in the church's fellowship hall.

On April 30, morning worship services will begin at 10 a.m. B. Alfred Jones, former pastor, will deliver the morning message. Herrell Sinclair, former member

and current director of missions for the Birmingham (Ala.) Association will direct the music. Other former pastors and members will be part of the program as well.

A covered dish luncheon will follow the morning service, and an afternoon sing will begin at 1 p.m.

Ebenezer Church was organized May 13, 1820, by 15 charter members. John P. Martin served as its first pastor. In 1956, the church voted to build its current facilities. In 1989 the church completed debt-free a building program for a fellowship hall and educational space.



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**Castlewoods, Brandon:** April 23-26; Sunday, 10:30 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Eddie Hamilton, Jackson, evangelist; Jerry Morgan, Castlewoods, music; Larry McDonald, pastor.

**Richburg, Hattiesburg:** April 23-26; Sunday, 11 a.m., covered dish lunch at noon, and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Bobby Ray Wedgeworth, evangelist; Richard Miley, pastor.

**Edgefield, McCool:** April 23-26; Sunday, 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Alex Moore, pastor of Harmony Church, evangelist; Mart Bell, pastor.

**First, Winona:** April 23-26; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., noon and 7 p.m.; Jerry Massey, Paris, Tenn., evangelist; Jerry Talley, Jackson, music; John L. Walker, pastor.

**Mt. Nebo (Newton):** April 23-26; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.;

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## Uniform Exercising freedom



By Greg Potts  
1 Corinthians 8

What is appropriate conduct for the Christian? In a day when the gambling business is rapidly expanding, many Christians probably feel there is nothing wrong with gambling. After all, it is their life, right?

This same argument could be applied to the consumption of liquor. Many Christians feel there is nothing wrong with drinking at a social gathering. They would argue that it does not matter what others might think of them for doing so.

The apostle Paul opposes that argument in our text. The issue with which Paul dealt was whether it was proper for Christians to eat the meat that had been sacrificed to idols in pagan temples. This was often the finest meat available for purchase. Many of the older, more mature Christians felt there was nothing wrong with eating this meat. After all, meat is meat, isn't it?

Not necessarily, according to Paul. Paul said there were many new converts who were offended by other Christians who were eating this meat. These new Christians had not matured to the point where they understood there was nothing wrong with the meat. They were somewhat legalistic in their approach to the Christian life.

Paul was aware of this and instructed the older, more mature Christians that it would be better if they did not eat this meat. The reason for abstaining from eating the meat was so that they would not cause the younger Christians to stumble in the Christian life. That is a very important point in the Christian life.

Jesus taught that we should be careful not to do anything that would cause a child to stumble. He said that if one did cause a child to stumble in the Christian life, it would actually be better if that person had a millstone hung around his neck and he would be drowned in the depth of the sea (Matt. 18:6). How then, should a person live the Christian life?

**We should not judge others.** If we are not careful, we can become judgmental of others who may look or behave differently from us. There may be times when someone holds a different interpretation of a particular verse of scripture. There may be times when someone feels differently about social issues. When those times arise, we must be careful that we not become guilty of judging them because they do not believe or behave as we do.

**We should not offend others.** Paul said there was nothing wrong with the meat that was in question. However, Paul knew this was something that troubled others and, if it troubled them, he would simply not eat the meat. We must be sensitive to the needs of others as well.

If we are engaging in conduct that appears questionable, we need to consider the individuals we are influencing. This is especially true if we are in a leadership position in the church. We must never give anyone an opportunity to question our moral or ethical standards.

**We should be an example for others.** We may not be aware of it, but someone is probably observing closely how we live the Christian life. Are we providing a good example for them? It is our task to lead others to Christ. Paul is saying in our text that although we enjoy certain liberties as Christians, those should never become obstacles to others coming to Christ.

Are there things in your life that are questionable Christian conduct? If so, ask the Lord to give you strength to change them. If you are doing anything that would hinder someone from knowing Christ, get rid of it. Do not be a stumbling block for anyone.

Potts is pastor, First Church, Vancleave.

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1995 Soil and Water Stewardship Observance



## Bible Book Early controversies



By Sylvia Fleming  
Mark 2, 3

"When Jesus saw their faith, he said unto the sick of the palsy [one who was paralyzed], thy sins are forgiven thee" (2:5). One paralyzed man who could not get to Jesus Christ under his own steam had been made right by faith in Jesus Christ. He had been taken to Jesus by four friends, but, alas, the crowds had filled the house and its surrounding area. Did they consider turning back because they could not come near? Certainly not!

They removed roofing until they were able to lower the man to the place where Jesus was preaching. Jesus, the Son of God, knew the condition and desires of the man's heart. When Jesus saw the tremendous faith, he pronounced salvation upon the man. Jesus, also, saw the work of the four bearers. How much work does he see from those who name the name of Jesus today? "... Faith, if it hath not works, is dead..." (James 2:17). He tells all who claim his name to "... be ye doers of the word and not hearers only..." (James 1:22). Those who truly love God will demonstrate love, kindness, and compassion — eternal attributes of the Father, who in his abundant mercy and grace bountifully shares with his children.

The Pharisees, the learned, religious men of the crowd, were anything but pleased when they heard Jesus forgive the man of his sins. They accused Jesus of blasphemy. They said that Jesus — only man — was claiming to do things that only God could do. Ultimately they would nail the innocent God-man to the cross on those same charges.

Jesus knew their hearts as only God can know a heart. "... Why reason these things in your hearts?" (2:8). To what heart was Jesus referring? Did he mean the pump that keeps man alive? Man reasons with his mind; thus, mental abilities must be faculties of the heart. Then, in John 14:1, Jesus comforted his apostles by saying, "Let not your heart be troubled..." What part of the anatomical or psychological processes becomes troubled? One's emotions are the seat of trouble, joy, peace, sadness, or turmoil; thus, the emotions are also faculties of the heart.

Finally, Hebrews 4:12 states: "For the Word of God is living... and sharper than any two-edged sword... and is a discernor of the thought and intents of the heart." What part of humanity controls the intents — the decisions — one makes? One's "will" has the control of his decisions. Consequently, one must realize that when Christ speaks of one's heart, he might be referring to the mind, the emotions, or the will. However, to be at one with God, for him to dwell in one's heart by faith, Jesus must have control of the seat of one's emotions, mind, and will — the very depths of one's being. The palsied man had both his physical infirmity and his spiritual infirmity healed for all to see. Jesus performed a miracle, and those who witnessed it glorified God, because of their amazement in never having seen anything like it.

Later, Jesus passed the tax collector's office and invited Matthew, a most unpopular fellow, to follow him. Without excuse, Matthew, the publican, the extortioner, went with Jesus. At some point Jesus was seen eating at Matthew's house and "rubbing elbows" with all those sinners. Jesus heard complaints from the Pharisees that he should not be socializing with them. Jesus' response was that he did not come to save the righteous, but he came to call the "... sinners to repentance" (2:17).

By and by, on a Sabbath day, he and his men were walking through a grain field and the disciples plucked some to eat. Once again the self-righteous sat in judgment on the act of the disciples. They were walking with the very God of the universe who could have easily changed the law that forbade their actions. They were beside the One who could have supernaturally satisfied their hunger. However, Jesus chose to let them pluck the grain, thus exposing them and himself to public scorn.

However critical the Pharisees were, according to Deuteronomy 23:25, the law stated the poor could satisfy their hunger from the fields of others, even if their hunger fell upon a Sabbath. Jesus was the focal point of the very law the Pharisees were trying to enforce, yet they were so blind that they could not see. "Therefore, the Son of Man is Lord also of the Sabbath" (2:28).

Fleming is an English teacher and member of Harmony Church, Louisville.

## Life and Work Blazing new trails



By Michael Johnson  
Acts 13-14

Last week we celebrated the resurrection of God's Son. This Sunday we begin a new study focusing on the second half of Acts. This section deals with the Apostle Paul's missionary endeavors. What better way to continue in the celebration of Christ's victory over death than through sharing that marvelous story with others?

As we examine how the gospel spread throughout the first-century world we will be challenged to evaluate and do something about our current efforts to insure that every man, woman, and child might hear the good news about Jesus.

**Sending out workers (13:2-3).** One of the direct results of the martyrdom of Stephen (see 7:59-8:1; 11:19-20) was the scattering of converts from Jerusalem because of a general persecution by the Jews. One of the places that became infiltrated with followers of Christ was Antioch, about 300 miles north of Jerusalem. Originally, it was the Jews who were witnessed to and converted, but later Greeks began to embrace the gospel. When the Jerusalem church learned of this, they sent Barnabas to investigate. Barnabas recognized the need for solid leadership for this growing church of Jews and Greeks and traveled to Tarsus to enlist the assistance of Paul (Saul). For over a year Barnabas and Paul worked side by side. It was in Antioch that the followers of Christ were first called "Christian" (11:26).

Once again we see the great influence of the Holy Spirit which now directs the Christians in Antioch to "set apart" Barnabas and Saul for special work. Apparently the church recognized this directive and cooperated with it. How does the church today recognize and obey the leading of the Spirit? Could there be people in our churches today who are feeling called to "go out" but the structure of the church fails to recognize or hinders such a response?

It is interesting to note that from the names mentioned in 13:1 it appears that we have a symbolic representation of various nationalities and backgrounds which are united under the lordship of Christ. How does this picture match the current composition of our churches?

**Winning converts (13:46b-48).** Upon entering a new town, the practice of these first missionaries was to present themselves in the local synagogue and share the news of Christ. Other Jews, however, seemed to be consumed with the necessity of discrediting Paul and Barnabas and stirred up trouble wherever they could. Ultimately the Jews began to exclude themselves from the gospel (apparently many could not accept the fact that circumcision was not part of Christianity). Paul indicated that he and Barnabas would turn their attention to the Gentiles who were much more open and receptive to the gospel. With whom does the church cast its lot today — the excluded or the excluders?

**Strengthening churches (14:21-23).** The return of the missionaries to these communities of fledgling faith was important for several reasons. First, the believers were being persecuted. If churches today are being obedient to the demands of the gospel they should be encountering opposition in some form. Jesus himself indicated that those who would follow him would not find life easy. Second, the best way to endure persecution is through fellowship with other believers. This is where much of the church's strength lies. How does the church today encourage fellowship and dependence upon one another for the strength to face the challenges of the world?

**Reporting God's activity (14:26-27).** For all of the known missionary endeavors, Antioch served as "home base" for Paul. Much had been experienced: unmasking a magician; preaching; stoning; threats; witnessing to a Roman proconsul; and many conversions of Jews, God-fearers, and pagans. There was a sense of accountability to those who had originally sent the missionaries out. Do we today call our people into accountability for how they have been stewards of the gospel during the previous week?

More importantly, Paul and Barnabas never indicated that all that had been accomplished was because of their own doing. They regarded themselves simply as instruments of God. How might God be using your church, your Sunday School class to blaze new trails?

Johnson is associate professor of Christian education at Mississippi College, Clinton.



# THE VILLAGE VIEW



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## Gifts of Honor and Memory

A portion of The Village View is allocated each month to a list of Gifts of Honor and Memory. Many groups and individuals elect to pay tribute to others through this sensitive, meaningful and helpful medium. This feature is hopefully designed to further honor, with taste and respect, those who are and have been special to our special friends.

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# capsules

**FMB MARKS MILESTONES IN MISSION PERSONNEL:** RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — The Foreign Mission Board sent out a record number of 545 "ordinary people" in 1994 as missionaries assigned to the extraordinary task of reaching the world for Jesus Christ. The 545 total, which broke the 1993 mark of 498, includes 255 career and associate missionary appointments, and a record 290 two-year International Service Corps (ISC) workers and journeymen. The 255 career appointment total was the highest in seven years; the record was set in 1985 with 304. The two-year worker total topped the 1993 record of 275. In April 1994 the overseas missionary force topped 4,000 for the first time in its 150-year history and stands at 4,108, according to the latest available figures. That includes 3,518 career and associate missionaries and 590 two-year workers. Marking the 4,000 milestone moves the Southern Baptist Convention closer to its goal of having 5,000 missionaries by A.D. 2000.

**KHABAROVSK BAPTISTS PLAN MEMORIAL FOR SLAIN SOUTHERN BAPTIST COUPLE:** Khabarovsk, Russia (BP) — Baptists in this far-eastern Russian city honored slain Southern Baptists Chu Hon and Kei Wol Yi during a memorial service at Khabarovsk Korean Baptist Church April 2. The couple was found dead in their apartment by local police March 28. Police reported that Yi had sustained several blows to his head and Mrs. Yi had been strangled. Yi, 60, and Mrs. Yi, 59, were charter members of the Tidewater Korean Church, Virginia Beach, Va. They had lived in Khabarovsk since June 1993 as participants in a medical exchange program sponsored by Cooperative Services International (CSI). CSI administrators from Hong Kong arrived in Khabarovsk late March 31 and met with local authorities April 1 to arrange for repatriation of the bodies and talked with police about the murder investigation.

**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH FORMED IN ALBANIA:** TIRANA, Albania (ABP) — Forty-nine Christians in Albania have formed the first Baptist church of the modern era in that former atheistic country. The Baptist Church of Tirana was founded Feb. 16, three years after the first Baptist workers arrived in the European country. Baptist work in Albania began in 1992 after the fall of the communist government that had outlawed religion. Although in biblical times Albania was the site of some missionary activity by the Apostle Paul, its people are predominantly Muslim. A mountainous country bordered by Greece and the former Yugoslavia, Albania is the size of Maryland with a population of almost 4 million. Annual per capita income is \$820 in U.S. currency. The first Baptist workers, medical doctors Chris and Mairi Burnett, were sent by the Baptist Missionary Society of England in 1992. They have since been joined by missionaries representing Italian Baptists, Canadian Baptists, the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, and the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship. The work is coordinated by the European Baptist Federation. EBF funds purchased the property for the Baptist Center in downtown Tirana, which houses the congregation. The congregation offers Tirana's 260,000 people worship services, Bible studies, training, and a benevolent ministry. The church has hired a pastor, Saverio Guarana of Italy, and opened a mission congregation in nearby Laprake.

**ARKANSAS EXECUTIVE ANNOUNCES RETIREMENT DATE:** LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (BP) — Don Moore, executive director of the Arkansas State Convention since 1982, has announced his plans to retire by Feb. 29, 1996. Moore made the announcement March 30 to the ABSC executive board operating committee, which will serve as the search committee for his successor. Moore, who will be 62 in November, said a February retirement date will provide the search committee and executive board time to secure his successor by the end of the year. That timetable would allow up to two months of transition for a new executive director prior to Moore's retirement. Nominations (including full biographical sketches) for the position of executive director may be mailed to operating committee chairman Billy Kite at P.O. Box 1184, Crossett, AR 71635 or P.O. Box 552, Little Rock, AR 72203.

## Bibliocipher

By Charles Marx  
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APGR, WYI KRX OH SRXOSY OYXP XBR KPSI: EPS  
BR BWXB XPSY, WYI BR DQKK BRWK OH: BR  
BWXB HGXXRY, WYI BR DQKK VQYI OH OT.

BPHRW HQN: PYR

This week's clue: P equals O.

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Matthew Twenty-Six: Forty-One.

## A testimony —

# Heaven came down for Sherry

By Charles and Indy Whitten

At the M.D. Anderson Cancer Center in Houston, Texas, in January, 1995, Sherry Whitten was told that her cancer was so wide-spread that she had about two weeks to live. This was the beginning of a six weeks' struggle before her death in March.

At first she told her husband David, "You and the children are just going to have to let me go. You will have to prepare our 10 adopted children for that event." This she said as an almost 47-year-old woman, who had made her peace with God many years before. She was tired and at that moment ready to turn it all over to God.

As days began to pass, intense pain required much medication. That, added to the fact that the cancer invaded her brain, caused her to be disoriented much of the time.

Thus began a struggle to live that is rarely seen. Sherry demonstrated amazing strength. Once she said, "I have three questions: 1. Shall I go ahead and decide to die? 2. Have I hurt anybody's feelings and need to ask forgiveness? 3. Have I finished my work with my 10 Hispanic children?"

David and the children were in her thoughts in all her conscious moments. She showed everybody

that she had unfinished business she wanted to take care of. When she was able to get out of bed, she would fold and re-fold the blankets, rearrange the hospital furniture, and try to do many other things.

These times were not without flashes of humor. Wanting to get out of bed when she was too weak to walk, she would sometimes say, "When I tell you push, you pull! When I tell you pull, you push!"

Once she asked, "Why so much whispering?" Our reply was, "We thought you were asleep, Sherry, and we didn't want to wake you." Then she started whispering herself as she talked, and did so until she fell asleep again. The nurse said, "I see she still has a sense of humor."

The day before Sherry died, David was in the room and needed to go to the bus station to get Mary, their oldest daughter. When he started out the door, Sherry called out in a loud voice, "David! David!" He came back to the bed and took her hand. She held on to it with a vise-like grip, even with her eyes closed. When David tried to slip my hand into the place of his, she said in a small voice, "You are trying to trick me."

All that morning she had been

restless, with feeble efforts to get up. That afternoon she was more serene. Once when she opened her eyes briefly, I stood by her bed and said, "Sherry, are you all right?" She nodded a "yes." I felt led to suggest that everything was fine—that she had no reason to be afraid or worried. "We would like to keep you, but God has better things in mind for you. He is going to give you a great promotion and take you to be with him." I quoted several passages from the Bible—such as when Jesus said, "My peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you... Do not let your heart be troubled or afraid." (John 15:27)... "I will never leave you... I am with you always, even to the end of the world." "Rejoice in the Lord always... the Lord is near. Do not be anxious... and the peace of God which is beyond all our understanding will keep your heart and mind in Christ Jesus." (Phil. 4:4-7).

Also, I said, "Sherry, the Bible tells us to think beautiful, lovely, pure thoughts (Phil. 4:8). Are you thinking beautiful thoughts, Sherry?" She smiled and nodded, "yes."

That was the last direct communication we had with her. I played hymns on my chromoharp and Indy and I sang several hymns softly. Things became very quiet. We thought Sherry was asleep. Then she started humming one of those hymns to herself, but it was loud enough for us to recognize. The chorus is "Heaven came down and glory filled my soul."

That night her breathing changed and it became more labored. The next afternoon, March 13, at 4:20, without a struggle, she just stopped breathing.

Then we knew that heaven really had come down and filled her soul. She had left us to be with Jesus from then on. She is now at rest, never to have another anxious moment.

The Whittens, retired missionaries to Spain, live in Clinton. This testimony was written while sitting at the bedside of their daughter-in-law Sherry Whitten, who died March 13.



## LifeAnswers

Ron Mumbower, Ed.D.  
Minister of Counseling  
First Church, Jackson

*My mother often calls me or drops by my workplace unannounced. I've tried to let her know this is inappropriate, but she persists. How can I tell her to stop?*

Since you have already let her know her behavior is inappropriate, your next step should be to follow through with a consequence if she violates the boundary you have set. Next time she calls, let her know you can't talk and that you'll call back later. Like a little child who does not get her way, your mother may react in a rude or sullen manner. You do not have to become defensive — remain calm, pleasant, and loving. Once you have drawn your boundary, you must constantly work to maintain it. No one else can do it for you. You make the decision as to what the consequences will be. If you don't draw and stick to your boundaries, others (like your mother) will invade your space and dictate what they want, when they want it.

*My friend is the victim of domestic abuse. She has three young children and refuses to leave her husband. After three*

*years of helping her, I am worn out. I don't want to abandon her. What can I do?*

Your situation is very similar to the above letter. You must also set boundaries. There comes a point in situations like domestic abuse where the victim must decide what to do. Your friend has a problem setting boundaries of her own. True, she risks harm if she takes a stand against her spouse, but if she doesn't, it's only a matter of time before he'll use anything as an excuse to explode at her. You can't solve her problem for her, but you can be a friend. Strongly encourage her to seek professional help, and set parameters of your friendship. Whether it is watching her kids twice a week, fixing a meal for her, or having a daily coffee break together, you decide how far you are able to go for her, and follow through. She may say she feels abandoned, but you can reciprocate by saying: "No, I am here for this time, but I must take care of myself and my family as well." These boundaries will provide security for you and for her — each of you knows where the other stands.

Send your counseling questions to LifeAnswers c/o The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Please be brief. Name is not required. Remember: in time of crisis, your pastor can make recommendations on your counseling needs.

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